



Grant to kick start Koppio graphite drilling

LINCOLN Minerals will receive a share of \$2 million worth of state exploration grants to further explore graphite mining potential at Kookaburra Gully near Koppio.

Grants have been announced for 27 research projects across the state as part of the government's Plan for Accelerating Exploration.

Lincoln Minerals managing director John Parker said although the company only received a "small slice" of the grant money, it would still cover 50 per cent of the exploratory drilling costs.

He said graphite mining on Eyre Peninsula had great potential and the grant would speed up the process of getting the first drill hole in the ground.

"It's encouraging us to accelerate the exploration of graphite," Dr Parker said.

"There's certainly potential for Eyre Peninsula to develop what it's been promising for a long time."

Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis said the state government had been working closely with industries for a long

term gain.

"PACE is one of the ways the state government has worked in partnership with industry to invest in long term exploration success," Mr Koutsantonis said.

"It has also helped establish South Australia's international credentials as a favoured destination for mineral resource investment."

Dr Parker said Lincoln Minerals had a long-term vision for the Kookaburra Gully mine and the grant guaranteed the state government had confidence in the idea.

"(The grant will) enable us to look further in to the future," he said.

"It's one thing to have a good physical (exploration) target, its nothing until you put a drill hole in."

Dr Parker said the company was ready to drill and had all the right government approvals, however due to farmers approaching seeding, the process may be slowed down.

"We're ready to drill right now, the problem is the season," he said.

"We may have to wait until summer."